20th November 1948]

"(b) The answer is in the affirmative.

"(c) The question of transferring them to regular establishment is under consideration separately.

"(d) Menial staff in the Government Press and Public Health Department are treated as contingent servants."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"May I know whether the Government have any proposal to abolish what is called the contingent staff?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"Yes, Sir."

Estimated increase in the population in the Madras City since 1941.

*97 Q.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Firka Development be pleased to state—

(a) the estimated increase in population in Madras City since 1941; and

(b) the number of houses built in Madras City since 1941?

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—"(a) The estimated increase in population in the Madras City over that in 1941 is about four lakhs.

"(b) The number of houses built in Madras City after 1941 up to 31st March 1948 is 2,483. In addition to these 2,634 new houses have undergone certain structural alterations."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—"Is it correct that the increase in the number of houses has not been keeping pace with the increase in population?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—"Yes, Sir, it is so."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—"Has not the City become progressively more and more crowded?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—"Yes, Sir, it is true."

MRS. MONA HENSMAN :—"Is it not a fact that many of the houses which used to be dwelling houses and residential quarters are now being taken for office purposes and offices are being located there by the Government? Though, so far as the landlords are concerned this is possible for they get better rent, such a thing should not be done and dwelling houses which has been acquired for office purposes should be returned for use as residential quarters as soon as possible."

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—"The Government will consider the question."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—"May I know what the Government have done so far, to show that they are alive to this serious and alarming state of congestion in the City?" 12-30 p.m.

[20th November 1948

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" As far as Madras City is concerned, a separate question might be put, since the Health Minister is in charge of it."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that the Provincial Housing Committee has brought to their notice the deplorable state of affairs in the City, and what action the Government propose to take in the matter at any rate now, even if they have not taken it so far?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" The Government have taken note of the report that has been published by the Housing Committee, and they are trying to put forth the schemes for improving the housing in the City, and trying to house people in different parts of the City. But there are many difficulties, such as the enormous cost of building, and the lack of the necessary capital, etc. Government are trying to do their best in the matter."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the non-availability of land for the construction of houses, is one of the difficulties experienced by Government, in the City?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" No, Sir. There is plenty of land available in the City.

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is not the Hon. Minister in charge of Firka Development also in charge of Housing?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" I am not in charge of housing in the City, Sir."

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

GOVERNMENT BILL.

II.—THE MADRAS ESTATES (REPEAL AND CONVERSION INTO RYOTWARI BILL, 1947 (L. A. BILL No. 37 OF 1947)—*cont.*

DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" Now we shall resume discussion on the Zamindari Abolition Bill. To-day we shall finish the general discussion; the Hon. Revenue Minister will reply at 4–30 p.m. I request hon. Members to keep up to the time-limit, and see that the general discussion is over by 4–30 p.m.

" The hon. Member Mr. Govindacharyulu will now resume his speech. He has already taken 40 minutes yesterday, and I hope he will be very brief to-day."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know, Sir, whether in the matter of general discussion on Bills, there is any rule limiting the time to be taken by any hon. Member, or the number of days allotted for the discussion?"

DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" The other day, I had a talk with the Leader of the Opposition, and he agreed that three days